

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

ISSG's Comments on Working Group V Draft Paper

FROM:

C/ISSG/OS

EXTENSION

NO.

OS 2 5039

DATE

25 JAN 1982

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

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OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. DDA Registry
7D-18, Hqs.

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IHSA/DDA 6D-5317, Hqs.

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25 JAN 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR:

[redacted]
Information Handling Systems Architect, DDA

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FROM:

[redacted]
Information Systems Security Group, OS

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SUBJECT:

ISSG's Comments on Working Group V Draft
Report [redacted]

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1. Information Systems Security Group (ISSG) is very much concerned that the "Summary and Conclusions" section of your report implies that Working Group V believes that new initiatives and progress are required when, in fact, substantial progress has been made regarding the first two conclusions stated. For example, the existing security policies contained in DCID 1/16 and [redacted] have been in the process of revision for over a year. Both state unambiguous information systems security policies and precisely define areas of responsibilities for the protection of Intelligence Community and Agency information. DCID 1/16 is in the final stages of coordination among the Intelligence Community members and [redacted] together with its companion [redacted] which defines computer security requirements for Headquarters systems, are soon to be released for coordination within the Agency. Both have been revised to update security policies and both are subject to review and revision every three years, as of date of publication. [redacted]

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2. ISSG and other components of the Agency are, and have been for some time, pursuing new technologies for application to security safeguards. There currently exist continuing R&D programs sponsored by ISSG, ORD, ODP and OC, the RECON-GUARD technology being but one example of these efforts. Additionally, other government agencies and the private sector are continuing their research in the areas of communications security, secure operating systems, data base encryption and user authentication techniques. [redacted]

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3. On the other hand, the emphasis in the draft report on these future technological advances to the point of excluding

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other areas of more important concern, such as influencing the security-related design and implementation of large information handling systems and networks can lead to a false sense of priorities. ISSG does not concur, and can not conclude, that secure operating systems and data base encryption, alone, can provide us computer security for the 1985-89 timeframe. ☐

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4. ISSG also is very concerned that many of the statements contained in your report alluding to specific security policy are phrased so generally that they are misleading. For example, a more accurate statement in Paragraph 2.c. would be "Hard disks will either be used or stored in vaulted areas, or be properly sanitized." ISSG also does not agree that local storage of data is not a concern. We do agree, however, that there is a need for additional security controls to prevent unauthorized removal of floppy disks from Agency premises; and we have requested funds for an R&D effort for encryption of data as it is written to floppy disks. ☐

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5. With reference to Paragraph 2.d., Information Systems Security should be added to the security standards defined in the first sentence of the second paragraph. In the same paragraph, it is more accurate to reflect that technological developments will be the driving force and these developments will require the continuing assessment of a completely new set of vulnerabilities and threats associated with Information Handling Systems. ☐

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6. With reference to Paragraph 2.g., ISSG suggests the following rewrite of this section to reflect that these goals and efforts are current and ongoing initiatives.

"Continued emphasis in promulgating security policy and guidelines which precisely....."

"In pursuit of this goal, the current efforts in the following initiatives should continue:

Objective 1.1:" ☐

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7. Having documented our concern that persons less familiar with the Agency's information security efforts than the Working Group members might erroneously conclude that vital issues were being overlooked, we commend the Information Handling Systems Architect (IHSA) for producing this timely draft document. We know from personal experience that to either precisely articulate information security concerns or to set forth long range goals is

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a difficult undertaking. To attempt both in the same paper is a formidable task indeed. If ISSG can be of any further assistance in this effort, please contact on secure

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